



## **South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council**

### **Meeting Notes - Meeting #13**

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**Date:** November 29 (8:30 am – 5:00 pm) and November 30 (8:30 am – 3:00 pm)

**Place/Time:** Radisson Inn Airport Hotel, Calgary, AB

**Attendees: Regional Advisory Council (RAC):**

Jay Bartsch, Linda Bruce, Stanley Church, Lisa Fox, Colin Jeffares, Wolf Keller, John Kerkhoven, Georgina Knitel, Leah Lawrence, Gord Lehn, Hugh Lynch-Staunton, Ron McMullin, Greg Sekura, Daniel Smith, John Squarek, Bryce Starlight, Bill Szabon, Kevin Van Tighem (November 29)

**Regional Planning Team:**

Glen Tjostheim, Doug Olson, Judy May-McDonald, Carolyn Johnson, Rob McManus, Susan Friesen

**Special Guests:**

Hon. Minister Mel Knight (Minister of Sustainable Resource Development), Eric McGhan (Deputy Minister) and Warren Singh (Executive Assistant)

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### **Day One**

#### **Introduction**

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Chair Colin Jeffares welcomed the RAC to the meeting. He noted that the RAC was in the home stretch and had a lot to do in the next two days. He thanked everyone for their perseverance and expressed his sincere appreciation for their hard work over the past 18 months. The focus of the last meeting was on completing the advice to Cabinet sheets and the advice to government document (the RAC's public document). The voting process was explained. The RAC was urged to stick to "show stopper" items rather than getting bogged down in editing or rehashing debate.

#### **Honourable Minister Mel Knight**

Hon. Knight provided greetings from the Premier and all of his colleagues in Caucus. He acknowledged the difficulty of the task that the RAC had been assigned, noting that the South Saskatchewan Region (SSR) has 45-50 per cent of Alberta's agricultural production and has been linked historically with ranching. However, 50 per cent of the people in the province also live in this region, with 90 per cent of those being urban dwellers. The SSR is home to the most critical piece of Alberta's water storage capacity and a broad range of industrial activity. The major icons of tourism are in Southern Alberta, the big sellers. He acknowledged the difficulty of the RAC's job and the necessity of the discussions taking place.

#### **Draft Advice Sheets**

The following advice to Cabinet sheets were reviewed and finalized by the RAC on the first



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- The recreation and tourism advice sheets
- The development needs and healthy communities advice sheet
- The economic advice sheets
- The biodiversity advice sheets

**Closing: 5:00 pm**

### **Day Two**

#### **Introduction**

RAC finalized and approved the following advice to Cabinet sheets:

- Aboriginal people and First Nations communities advice sheet
- Infrastructure advice sheet
- Water advice sheets

RAC finalized and approved its Public Report Regarding a Vision for the South Saskatchewan Region (RAC's advice document).

#### **Meeting Wrap-Up**

Members were asked to share any final thoughts as to process. The members took the opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation. RAC members will be notified when the public consultation process begins and will receive a final copy of the advice to Cabinet sheets and the advice document.

**Closing: 3:00 pm**

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.